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As of today, our countries are on different sides of world history. Russia has embarked on a path of evil, but Ukraine is defending itself and won't give up its freedom
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

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+38 0997300483
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A woman injured during Russian shelling in Ukraine; (above) an explosion near Dnipro on Thursday

Russia launches full-scale invasion of Ukraine sending warplanes and ground forces, shatters peace as angry Western nations condemn aggression, promise more sanctions; many killed and thousands of Ukrainians flee homes

COLD WAR II BEGINS

The US and its ... partners will respond in a united and decisive way. The world will hold Russia accountable

US Prez Joe Biden

Diplomatically, politically, economically and eventually militarily, this ... barbaric venture of Putin must end in failure

British PM Boris Johnson

Attack a grave breach of international law, and a serious threat to Euro-Atlantic security

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg

Ukraine is fighting on behalf of all of Europe, for the freedom of all of Europe

Poland PM Mateusz Morawiecki

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A missile fragment pierced the ceiling of Mikhail Shcherbakov's apartment in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city. A Russian attack, after weeks of warnings, had hit home. "I heard noise and woke up. I realised it sounded like artillery," Shcherbakov told Associated Press. He jumped from the couch and ran to wake up his mother, and something exploded behind him.

The missile left a nearby computer and teacup shrouded with dust, instant artifacts of Europe's latest crisis. At dawn on Thursday, Ukrainians' uneasy efforts at normality were shattered. Smoke rose from cities, even well away from the country's disputed eastern border. Cold War II has just begun.

Bloodshed, tears, explosions and sirens shattered the peace as Russia mounted a full-scale invasion of the country after days of back-and-forth posturing. The West immediately stepped in and condemned Russian President Vladimir Putin's move to "demilitarise" Ukraine. Russia claimed that its military had destroyed more than 70 military targets including 11 airfields in Ukraine. "As a result of strikes carried out by the Russian armed forces, 74 Ukrainian military ground facilities were destroyed," said Igor Konashenkov, a defence ministry spokesman, specifying that 11 airfields were destroyed.

Russian and Ukrainian forces are locked in an intense battle for control of an airbase on the northern outskirts of Kyiv, a senior Ukrainian officer said Thursday, as dozens of attack helicopters swooped on the area. "Fighting is under way for Gostomel airfield," armed forces chief Valeriy Zaluzhny said in a message posted on Facebook. Shortly earlier, AFP reporters had seen helicopters flying low over the city from the north.

The attack triggered Western warnings of unprecedented sanctions against Russia as NATO, EU and G7 leaders condemned the invasion and vowed to hold Moscow accountable.

In a late night media briefing US President Joe Biden said, "Putin is the aggressor. Putin chose this war. And now he and his country will bear the consequences."

He said the US will impose new sanctions that will target four more Russian banks not included in the first tranche of sanctions, including VTB, the country's second-largest bank.

"This will impose severe costs on the Russian economy both immediately and over time," Biden said.

Britain too unveiled tough new sanctions targeting Russia, freezing the assets of Russian bank VTB and arms manufacturer Rostec, sanctions on five more oligarchs close to Putin including his former son-in-law Kirill Shamalov, and banning Aeroflot from British airspace. *(With inputs from agencies)* MORE ON: P9,12

GRIM DAY

A series of explosions were heard in Kyiv, with Ukraine saying Russian forces had captured an airbase on the outskirts of the capital while helicopters were seen flying in from the north

Russian forces captured the Chernobyl nuclear power plant after a "fierce" battle. Ukraine announced. "It is impossible to say that the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is safe. This is one of the most serious threats to Europe today," an Ukrainian official said

Modi talks to Putin, urges immediate end to violence

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

AMID Russian offensive in Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin and appealed for an immediate cessation of violence. Modi reiterated his long-standing conviction that differences between nations should be resolved through dialogue. Putin briefed Modi about the recent developments.

India has brought 4,000 citizens stranded in Ukraine, foreign secretary Harsh Sringla said during a press briefing. "Out of the 20,000 Indians who live in Ukraine, a large number constitutes students, and we managed to bring back 4,000. We have set up control rooms in India and Kyiv to support Indians and are exploring all options to bring them back," he said. Around 250 students have taken shelter in schools. They will be evacuated westwards, Shringla said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts in Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary on the matter. Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security that was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Home Minister Amit Shah and Jaishankar.

Air India flight turned back due to Russian operation

A special Air India plane sent to Ukraine to bring back Indians stranded there had to turn back and return to Delhi after it was told that Ukrainian air space was closed due to Russian military operation. A NOTAM (notice to airmen) was sent by Ukranian authorities to all flights heading to the country stating that flights of civil aircraft "are restricted due to potential hazard for civil aviation"

Hundreds of students stuck, hope to be rescued ASAP

Hundreds of students from across India are caught in Ukraine with many sending frantic messages back home to rescue them from the uncertain situation. They have been told by the embassy to stay calm and move to the western part of the country on their own. Some of the students are a little too close to the war. Many of them are in Kharkiv and Odessa | P8

EAM speaks to EU chiefs

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to European Union's High Representative for foreign affairs Josep Borrell. "Received a call from EU HRVP @JosepBorrellF. Discussed the grave situation in Ukraine and how India could contribute to de-escalation efforts," he tweeted

Investors lose ₹13 lakh crore as markets plunge

RAM SAHGAL @ Mumbai

ON a day when Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Nifty and Sensex fell the most in 23 months, wiping out a whopping ₹13.28 lakh crore of investor wealth.

The Nifty's 815-point fall and the Sensex's 2,702-point plunge on Thursday mean that both frontline indices have now entered correction territory, closing more than 10% off their record highs in October last year. The Nifty and Sensex, after Thursday's closing at 16,247.95 and 54,529.91, were trading 12.66% and 12.39%, respectively below their October 2021 record highs.

Calling the Ukrainian crisis an extraordinary event, Vikas Khemani, co-founder of Carnelian Asset Management, advised "waiting on the sidelines" for a week before buying on any dip. Rohit Srivastava, founder of IndiaCharts, expects the next supports to kick in at 16,000 for Nifty and 53,600 for Sensex.

The fallout from the invasion, besides roiling global stock markets, drove up commodity prices significantly. Underscoring the uncertain sentiment in the market, fear gauge India Vix closed up 30% at 31.98, the highest close in 18 months. A reading above 20 signals high bearishness. P13

Fallout of Russian invasion | Crude oil at 8-year high | Aluminium at 13-year high | Gold at 13-month high | Wheat at 9-month high

Told to hide in underground metro stations, say Karnataka students

Nodal officer appointed

Senior IFS Officer Manoj Rajan has been appointed nodal officer to facilitate safe return of stranded people from Karnataka to their respective places. He will oversee the 24/7 Helpline (080-1070, 080-22340676) and email ids (manoarya@gmail.com, revenuedmkar@gmail.com)

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

"WE can hear the sounds of bombs exploding from our hostel, it's terrible and scary. We were told to run to the nearest underground metro station if we hear any warning sirens. Staying underground is safer and the nearest place for us to seek shelter is some 200 metres away from the hostel," a nervy Kiran Savadi, studying his first-year medicine at the Kharkiv National Medical University, Kharkiv in Ukraine, told *TNIE*.

Kiran, who hails from Banahatti in Bagalkot district, landed in Ukraine in December last year.

"Initially, everything was good. In fact, we were attending college till Wednesday. On Thursday morning, we were jolted from sleep around 5 am to the sounds of bombing. More than 30 students are from Karnataka in our hostel and many of them had booked flight on February 24, 26 and 27. But those who went to the airport on Thursday (Feb 24), had to return. We are getting messages frequently from the Indian embassy and other authorities not to step out," he said. P4

Efforts on to bring back Kannadigas: CM

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said the State Government is making all efforts to ensure the safe return of people from Karnataka from Ukraine, and is in touch with the Centre and the Indian embassy.

Bommai said over 100 Indian students are standard, of whom more than 10 are from Karnataka. "Our Chief Secretary is in touch with the Secretary to the External Affairs Ministry. "Once flights resume, they will be brought back. We are in touch with the Centre," the CM said.

EXPRESS READ

Police seek Harsha's call, chat records from WhatsApp, arrest two more men

Shivamogga: Shivamogga police, investigating the Harsha murder case, are still trying to trace the Bajrang Dal activist's mobile phone, and have written to WhatsApp seeking his chat and call details. On Thursday, police arrested two more men, bringing the total number of people arrested in the case to 10. Deputy Commissioner R Selvamani said schools and colleges in Shivamogga will reopen on Saturday. | P4

Burqa not essential, but hijab is, HC told

Bengaluru: Purdah or burqa may not be an essential practice in Islam, but wearing a headscarf or hijab is, and two judgments of the Kerala and Madras high courts have arrived at this conclusion, senior counsel Devadatt Kamat told the Karnataka High Court. | P4

₹19,111 crore assets of Mallya, others attached

New Delhi: The "timely attachment" of proceeds of crime has led to the attachment of assets worth over Rs 19,000 crore out of the "total fraud" of over Rs 22,500 crore by three fugitive offenders Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

LIC IPO
Reservation for Policyholders

To participate, policyholders must meet the following criteria:

- Resident Individual Policyholders of the Corporation having one or more policies of the Corporation as on February 13, 2022 and Bid/Offer opening date are eligible.*
- **Policyholder's PAN details should be updated with the Corporation on or before February 28, 2022.**

* Please also refer draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022

DEMAT Account Opening

- Go to the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) to open a DEMAT account.

OR

- Visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP) to open a DEMAT account:

NSDL: https://nsdl.co.in/Open_NSDL_Demat_Account.php
CDSL: https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022 ("DRHP") read with the corrigendum dated February 15, 2022. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is also available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com. Potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled 'Risk Factors' of the RHP when filed. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23 of the DRHP.

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